THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) India imported 2.011 million tonnes of US wheat in 1988-89 at a cost of US $ 323.932 millions comprising FOB cost of US $ 243.362 million and ocean freight of US $ 80.570 millions.

As per prescribed procedure under the U.S. Export Enhancement Programme, the purchase team sent from Department of Food, New Delhi, held protracted negotiations with U.S. Department of Agriculture when the prices, quantities of different varieties, specifications and the delivery schedule were decided. The quantities to be purchased from each supplier and the delivery schedule, including load ports for each supplier were decided and intimated by U.S.D.A., on receipt of offers from suppliers in response to trade enquiries made by the Supply Wing. There could not be any direct negotiations by buyer with the suppliers under the procedure prescribed by US Government for availing the concession under their Export Enhancement Programme.

The imported wheat was supplied by 12 U. S. firms, and Department of Food has no information, if any of the firms had any BOFOR link. All the wheat imported from USA conformed to P.F.A. (Prevention of Food Adulteration) Rules and the transactions did not at any stage reveal anything warranting probe.

Promotion of Ice cream manufacturing by NDDB

1286. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB the promoter of Amul Chocolates and cheese now propose to promote Ice-cream as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 17th January, 1990;

(b) whether Government are aware that DMS was ordered to sell its two large Ice-cream plants which were selling Ice-cream at low prices to school children; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to order an immediate inquiry into these operations?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) NDDB is encouraging dairy cooperatives to diversify the range of manufacture of milk products including Ice-cream in order to enable them handle the increased quantity of milk being procured by them under Operation Flood.

(b) The manufacture/sale of Ice-Cream by Delhi Milk Scheme was stopped with effect from 17-7-1978 in accordance with the decision of the Management Committee of the Delhi Milk Scheme. The two old Ice-cream manufacturing plants of DMS were subsequently sold through the erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

Capacity utilisation of milk powder plants and Tetrapak plants

1287. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite anticipated milk surplus, many of the milk powder plants in the surplus states are not working to full capacity as appeared in the Times of India of the 13th February, 1990;

(b) whether Government are also aware that longlife Tetrapak plants are also not working fully;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of the tetrapak machines are either malfunctioning and several are lying unpacked and uninstalled for years;

(d) whether Government are aware that similar surpluses of milk have been occurring during the last three to four years; and

(e) whether Government of Maharashtra had been writing to NDDB in this regard for the last three to four years and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The newspaper report in question is a comment on another news report on the milk

boom in the Bikaner Milk Shed of Rajasthan. The capacity utilisation of powder plants in Rajasthan state, as a whole has been approximately 32 per cent during December, 1989 and January, 1990.

(b) and (c) Long life aseptic peckaging is a new technology where fuller utilisation of capacity can only be achieved over time. However there is likely to be a near doubling of the quantity of aseptic milk packed during 1989-90 compared with the previous year. Despite the initial teething problems inevitable in any new technology, all the 16 tetrapack machines have been installed and have been packing milk.

(d) There was no surplus milk situation during the last three to four years, because of prevailing drought situation.

(e) The Government of Maharashtra had approached NDDB in 1987 and 1988 for allotment of skim milk powder (SMP) and butter fat. The NDDB had then suggested to the Government of Maharashtra that they may use their own stock of commodities to tide over the situation and improve the procurement of milk. However, during 1989-90 Maharashtra has offered 5725 MT of S.M.P.' to NDDB which has been accepted.

Installation of edible oil tanks at Kandla and Calcutta

1288. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Edible Oil tanks are being installed at Kandla and Calcutta to ensure continued vegetable oil imports;

(b) whether these tanks are a part of Oil Technology Mission on National Vegetable Oils Development Board or the NDDB and whether Government's sanction had been obtained for this massive project under CLUSA/CIDA; and

(c) whether Government propose to hand over Vegetable Oil work now handled by NDDB to National Vegetable Oil Development Board?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is currently constructing an edible oil tank farm at Kandla and also has plans to construct a tank farm near Calcutta. These tank farms are being established to handle oil purchased under Market Intervention Operations and not to ensure con tinued vegetable oil imports.

(b) The tank farms are being established by the NDDB under its vegetable oil project, 'Restructuring Edible Oil and Oilseed Production and Marketing' which was approved by the Government. The funds for the project are being generated by NDDB by monetising the edible oil gifts given by USAID/CLUSA and CIDA/CCA. Currently the funds available under the vegetable oil project are being utilised for establishing the tank farm.

(c) No, Sir.

Eradication of unemployment in the country

1289. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed and semi-employed persons registered with the employment exchanges during the years 1977, 1980, 1984 and 1989 and what was the position of Rajasthan in this regard;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps or have drawn up any plans for the eradication of unemployment; if so, by when the unemployment would be eradicated; and

(c) whether Government are formulating any policy to provide a uniform unemployment allowance throughout the country; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per available information the number of educated (Matric & above) job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exchanges, not all of whom are